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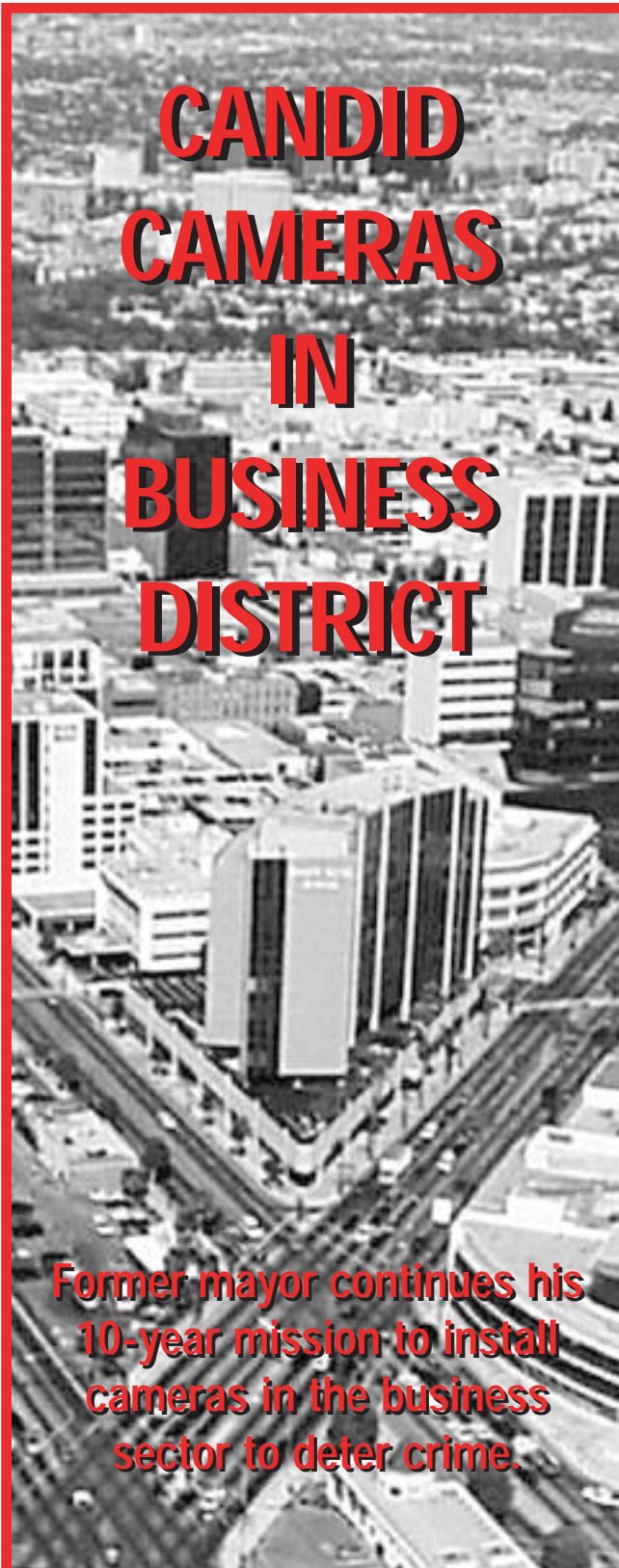
Issue 325 • December 22 - December 28, 2005



THE SPIRIT OF GIVING



The *Weekly* looks at how Beverly Hills has raised money-- and spirits-- for those less fortunate this holiday season.



CANDID CAMERAS IN BUSINESS DISTRICT

Former mayor continues his 10-year mission to install cameras in the business sector to deter crime.



BEVERLY HILLS PLACES HOMELESS AND TRANSPORTATION AT THE TOP

Westside cities make strides in combating traffic congestion and homeless issues on its streets.

letters & email



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SNAPSHOT



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Ask For Mark Huser

Beverly Hills Weekly

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City Leaders Walk The Walk

Mayor and Chamber CEO talk to business owners during first-ever city walking tour.

By Michelle Zenarosa

When Mayor Linda Briskman, City Manager Rod Wood and Chamber of Commerce CEO Dan Walsh took a stroll around New York City in November during the Economic Development mission and observed businesses from a “promotional, physical and environmental” standpoint, their observations sparked an interest to do the same in their own city.

In an effort to gain a first-hand impression of the experience of shopping in the business district, Briskman and Walsh conducted two casual walking tours-- the first last Wednesday, Dec. 14 in the business triangle and on Robertson Boulevard; the second on Saturday, Dec. 17 at the SoBev Block Party along South Beverly Drive.

The first walking tour started on Dayton Way at The Grill at 1 p.m. and then proceeded to the streets of Camden, Canon, Dayton, North Beverly, Little Santa Monica, Rodeo and ended on Robertson Boulevard, where the two informally visited several merchants

discussing concerns and suggestions for improving the district.

They visited about 15 businesses during the tour, including Gearys, De Beers, Sammy’s Sports, Martin Katz jewelers, Pillow Talk, Crate & Barrel and Bebe.

“My take is that the merchants are quite pleased with many of the aspects of the Urban Design Project,” Walsh told the *Weekly*. “In some cases, some of the work remains to be finalized or finished. The city is looking awfully good for the holidays and the business looks pretty strong. [The merchants] are generally pleased with the progress up to date.”

During the walk, however, several issues concerning the business district came up, according to Walsh. Some of the merchants expressed their interest in improving the landscaping in the area such as the maintenance of the palm trees and the addition of several trash cans for those who throw ciga-

city & schools cont. on page 4

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: Thursday, January 5, 2006

TIME: At or after 11:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Commission Meeting Room A
Beverly Hills City Hall
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, California 90210

A public hearing will be conducted at the above time and place to determine whether the “Public Convenience or Necessity” would be served if the State Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) issued a certain liquor license (Type 20), an off-sale beer and wine general license for the following establishment:

A Cow Jumped Over the Moon
421 North Rodeo Drive

The City’s determination is required by Section 23958.4 of the California Business and Professions Code.

Any interested person may attend the public hearing and be heard or present written comments. Letters should be addressed to Hearing Officer, c/o Department of Community Development, Planning, 455 North Rexford Drive, Room G-30, Beverly Hills, CA 90210. If you challenge the Hearing Officer’s decision in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you, or someone else raised, at the time of the hearing before the Hearing Officer or in written correspondence delivered to the City either at or prior to the hearing. If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact the Planning Department at 310.285.1123.

Georgana Millican
Assistant Planner



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Council of the City of Beverly Hills, at its regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 3, 2006, at 7:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, California, will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of:

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE SCHEDULE OF TAXES, FEES & CHARGES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2005/2006.

The proposed resolution would increase charges at municipal parking facilities in the Business Triangle and on South Beverly Drive to rates more consistent with operational costs. Changes are also proposed to the City’s rate structure for security alarms and increases for fire inspection fees to fully recover actual costs for the City to provide related services. Additionally, staff recommends increasing recreational usage fees and filming and still photography permit charges for the City to remain competitive with market demands. Fees and charges under the proposed resolution are effective on Monday, January 9, 2006, except for security alarm rates which are effective on Friday, February 3, 2006.

Copies of the proposed resolution are available for review or purchase in the Office of the City Clerk, Room 190, and the Administrative Services Department, Room 250, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, California. Any interested person may attend the meeting and be heard. Written comments may also be submitted and should be addressed to the City Council, c/o City Clerk, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, California, 90210. The comments should be received prior to hearing date.

Please remember, if you challenge the Council’s action in regard to this matter in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing.

BYRON POPE
Acting City Clerk

"I also noted that there were a number of sidewalks that were under construction. It's clearly a work in progress so we want to be sure that matters of that sort are done speedily," Walsh said. "Other than that, the city looks really sharp. It's bright. The decorations particularly down Rodeo were beautiful. The snowflake, which is now suspended above the Regent, really is a great punctuation as you're looking down Rodeo."



(L-R) Chamber of Commerce CEO Dan Walsh and Beverly Hills Mayor Linda Briskman take a break during their walking tour of businesses along South Beverly Drive during the SoBev Holiday Block Party.

rette butts along the street.

Although there were a few suggestions amongst merchants, Walsh said he was impressed with the overall experience.

At the second walking tour at the SoBev Block Party, the first event of its kind, Briskman and Walsh covered two blocks along South Beverly Drive, visiting merchants like Color Me Mine, Flowers by Michael, Solar Harvest, The Shave, Al's Newsstand and Bobbe Joy Makeup Studio.

"It was a great first event and promises to

be even more fun next year," Briskman said in an e-mail to the *Weekly*. "We visited the award winners for the holiday window displays and mingled with the shoppers and store owners. This energetic group under the leadership of Bobbe Joy Dawson and Don Conner really are to be congratulated."

The event was kicked off at 4:30 p.m. Saturday in front of the Chamber building including carols sung by the Madrigals and a visit from Santa Claus via a Beverly Hills fire engine.

One of the main concerns of South Beverly merchants was the inconsistent renovation between North and South Beverly Drives, as the business triangle is being considered for granite sidewalks.

"I think South Beverly Drive needs to be looked out in a way that maybe North Beverly Drive and Canon have been addressed-- they've been refurbished, remodeled and the sidewalks have been taken care of," said Michael Garakian, owner of Flowers by Michael, who also won the window display award. "It's something that should be looked into for South Beverly also."

As the climate of South Beverly has changed throughout the years, the merchants as well as the city is considering spicing up the area to match with that of its northern counterpart.

"Historically, South Beverly has been looked more at as a neighborhood kind of shopping area and it still has a number of those components. Increasingly as rent has been pushed up and has taken much more the feel of the triangle than it did as a neighborhood area," Wood said. "I think the merchants' observations, suggestions and concerns are right on point and the community needs to see South Beverly differently than it has historically."

Some merchants also mentioned the subject of Christmas lights on the street and are looking for increased lighting for next year's holidays.

"We have to create cohesiveness in Beverly Hills and what [South Beverly Drive has had] are the leftovers," said Bobbe Joy Dawson, owner of Bobbe Joy Makeup Studio. "But we are now being noticed. It's a really good thing and serves to get better because people are making more of an effort."

South Beverly is unique in that both neighborhood and business triangle elements are integrated into the section.

"I love and am proud of South Beverly Drive," said Al's Newsstand owner, Alan Brooks. "I've been here for 16 years and in those years I've seen a metamorphosis of a very quiet sleepy sleep into a very active vital boulevard which is part of the Beverly Hills business community. We have the best customers in the whole world."

After their New York trip, both Walsh and Briskman said they may consider aspects of the east coast city's decor for the business district in Beverly Hills.

"A general observation was that in certain parts of New York City, particularly along Madison Avenue, there were sections of Madison that were highly stylized in terms of the lampposts, street furniture and art, the way the street was presented to the pedestrian-- the width, the way that outside dining was largely constrained along the shopping district. There were plenty of places to eat outdoors in New York, but not particularly so along areas where the merchants are," Walsh said.

Walsh and Wood also noted that most of the business districts in New York had granite sidewalks.

"I think we should be looking at sidewalk improvements and the poles to support what's there. Let's have the staff raise options and let the community make the decision," Wood said. "If you look at the City Hall complex and at the gracious building they built in 1932, the impression is that's a really nice building. They really did it right. Does anybody ask how much did it cost and how did it get paid for? The answer is 'No.' They don't. Everything should be looked so that in 50 years the people that are here are saying, 'Wow, they really did a good job.'"

Overall, the results of the observations taken throughout both walking tours will be considered when making future decisions about making the business district more "visitor-friendly."

"The entire council knows the importance that our business community has for our city," Briskman said. "We want to strengthen that relationship, always mindful of the goal to balance the needs of our residents in a compatible rhythm."

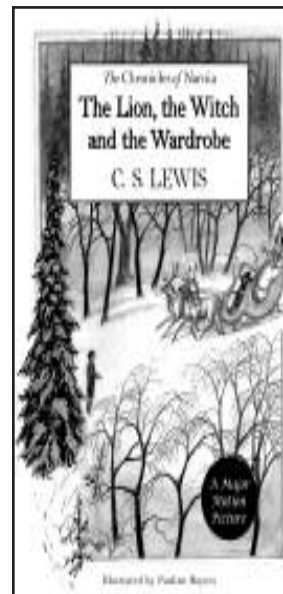
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Doctor Says Natural Remedies Are Sometimes Overlooked

By Irv Rudman

All Natural Healing

According to Zone Healing expert, Dr. Yoav Stein, people spend more money on health and take more drugs than ever before. So why do people get sick? You can't catch cancer and diabetes, people's bodies develop them. You can't catch obesity; your body becomes fat or obese. Being sick is abnormal and it is not a natural state of the body, and Dr. Stein says there are two reasons why people become ill: You picked up a germ, virus or bacteria or developed an illness or disease. This means there is an imbalance in the body and your immune system is weak.

Dr. Stein says you have to understand the cause of the diseases. No matter what disease you have whether its cancer, fibromyalgia, acid reflux disease, heart

disease, diabetes, allergies, constipation, colitis, aches and pains, flu, etc., the cause is from one or more combinations of the following four things: Too many toxins in the body; nutritional deficiencies; physical, chemical or emotional stress; or the body being unbalanced.

Dr. Stein says the number one toxins you can put in your body are prescription and non-prescription drugs, because their potentially negative side effects. It is important to note that drugs only suppress symptoms; they do not treat the cause.

The second issue includes nutritional deficiencies. In today's society, Stein says the standard American diet has been a source for diseases and illnesses that develop. More and more kids and adults are becoming obese. Their diet consists

of too many carbohydrates and fats and not enough organic fruits and vegetables. He says many illnesses and disease can be cured from just eating the right foods and proper diet, and when the proper diet is not eaten, people develop a weak immune system which is a result of not having enough antioxidants in the body.

Stress is also an important factor, as any negative thoughts that cause the body to become acidic, thus creating an environment for illness and disease. Negative stressful low vibration thoughts can give your body disease, according to Dr. Stein. It is important to be able to keep stress under control and with the help of Dr. Stein's Concept-Therapy and Zone Healing this can be achieved.

Zone Healing is a technique that breaks the body into six systems-- glandular, elimination, nervous, digestion, muscular and circulatory. When one or more of these systems is not balanced disease develops. A Zone doctor like Dr. Stein can restore the body to health from almost any disease by manipulating the parts of the spine that correspond to each zone.

Once all these issues are addressed your body pH will be alkaline and when your body pH is alkaline you virtually can never get sick, Dr. Stein says.



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aroundtown

Beverly Hills Angels Make A Difference For L.A.'s Homeless

The holiday season brings out a wealth of volunteers for the West Hollywood Food Coalition.

By Karmel Melamed and Andrea Simpson

At 6:30 p.m. on a chilly Dec. 7 night, more than 30 young Beverly Hills residents gathered on the corner of Sycamore Avenue and Romaine Street in West Hollywood to volunteer their time to help feed the homeless waiting in line for a hot meal.

The 36 volunteers, which grow in numbers every year, came out in support of the Greater West Hollywood Food Coalition and their friend Jennifer Chadorchy to roll up their sleeves and hand out sandwiches, hot soup and dessert to those in need.

The volunteers looked on in amazement at the growing line of nearly 200 people waiting for several hours for their only meal of the day. Yet the sight of so many homeless was all too familiar for Chadorchy, who had single-handedly recruited the evening's volunteers.

"The turnout of volunteers was amazing," said Chadorchy, who regularly organizes vol-

unteer groups for the Coalition during the holiday season. "This year we brought out more volunteers at one time from Beverly Hills and we've had other people who volunteered now organizing their own groups to go back to help."

Chadorchy said she's noticed that by simply through word-of-mouth alone the organization's volunteers have expanded nearly 30 percent every year, even from businesses whose employees volunteer as groups.

"A lot more people want to do more hands on work. Once people come down to the line they always want to come back. And we hope they will," Chadorchy said.

After volunteering this month, three of Chadorchy's friends have even organized their own groups to go down to help in the line, including Homan Sefardi. Dec. 7 was the first time Sefardi volunteered in West Hollywood and ever since he's been hooked.



Holiday cheer: Westside Food Coalition founder Ted Landreth (middle) and Jennifer Chadorchy (second from right) with Beverly Hills volunteers on Dec. 7

"I loved it. It was just so rewarding just to see people smile as we did nothing but give something back to them," Sefardi said.

After that night Sefardi formed his own group of friends who have since volunteered again for the Coalition, which he hopes to do at least once a month.

Sefardi said he thanks Chadorchy for getting him involved in something he says he would like to continue all year round.

"People are [volunteering] more often because they realize how much they're thankful for during the holidays. But it should be done more throughout the year. It needs to be done more often," Sefardi said.

For the last eight years, Chadorchy has become one of the few forces in Beverly Hills to mobilize a small army of her friends, family members and fellow Beverly High graduates to respond to the plight of the homeless in the L.A. area.

"Her compassion and her actions are contagious," said Lida Tabibian, a volunteer recruited by Chadorchy. "She not only changes thousands of lives, but she's also inspiring a whole generation to be leaders for this cause."

Others said they are inspired by

around town cont. on page 7

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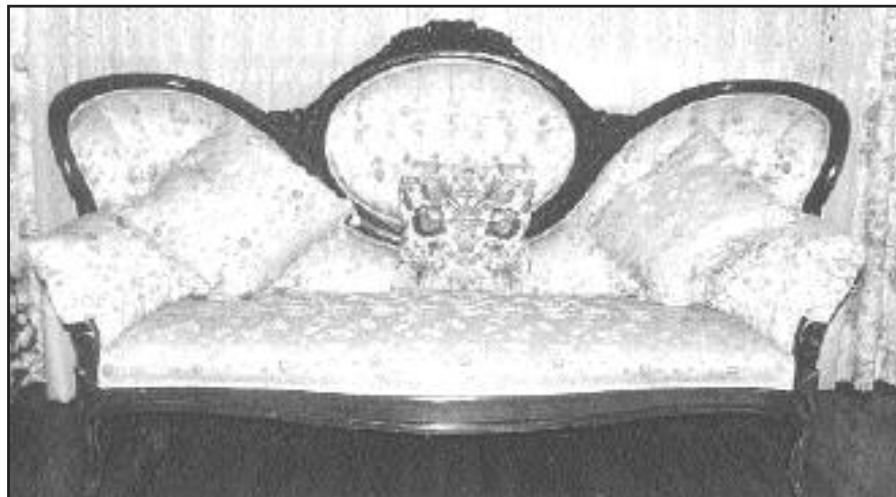
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around town cont. from page 6

Chadorchi's dedication to the cause.

"I think it's so great because it's hands on and you get to help people immediately and there are so many people who need help," friend and volunteer Lisa Felsenthal said.

Felsenthal said all the volunteers serving food wanted to do it on a weekly basis.

Chadorchi's journey in aiding the homeless first began when she was a 16-year-old high school student driving her new car through the streets of West Hollywood as she spotted the homeless being fed by the Coalition.

"What caught my eye was the long line of these people just standing in the pouring rain with only newspapers over their heads," Chadorchi said. "It didn't seem fair to me that I had so much and they had nothing, so I decided I had to help by volunteering."

Since 1987, Coalition volunteers have put out tables every night to hand out excess food donated by Los Angeles area hotels, restaurants, grocery stores and caterers for the homeless. In 2000, the Coalition joined forces with UCLA medical students who offer medical aid to sick homeless individuals gathering at the street corner through their mobile health clinic.

Chadorchi is not your run-of-the-mill volunteer seeking the limelight. Over the years not only has she quietly volunteered her time

to feed the homeless and raised private funds for the Coalition, but she has put together clothing drives where Beverly Hills residents have driven by her home and donated their old clothing for the homeless. She was also instrumental in organizing "Project Feed" in 1998, a campaign in which BHUSD students have given their food and time in volunteering for the Coalition in exchange for school

she was a junior at Beverly Hills High School. I think she is one of the most dedicated, incredible and passionate young people out there," said former U.S. presidential candidate Michael Dukakis. "The people working out there are doing alright, but if she was in charge of the homeless problem in Los Angeles County, I promise you'd see some real changes."

"I've known Jennifer [Chadorchi] since she was a junior at Beverly Hills High School. I think she is one of the most dedicated, incredible and passionate young people out there. The people working out there are doing alright, but if she was in charge of the homeless problem in Los Angeles County, I promise you'd see some real changes."

-- Michael Dukakis, former U.S. presidential candidate

credit.

"She has had a tremendous impact on our organization, what she did was build a bridge between our group and Beverly Hills and especially the Iranian Jewish community," said Ted Landreth, one of the Coalition's founders. "Without her, I doubt we could have made these important connections."

Those familiar with Chadorchi's volunteer efforts said they wished she would enter the public sector and work with local government officials to alleviate Los Angeles County's difficulties with the homeless because of her passion for the issue.

"I've known Jennifer [Chadorchi] since

Dukakis, who is Chadorchi's self-described mentor and former UCLA professor, said while volunteer groups can help the homeless with food and other necessities, only Los Angeles city and county officials have the real ability to reduce homelessness by providing more affordable housing, drug treatment programs and mental health facilities for the homeless.

"Jennifer did a paper for me about how the cities of Santa Monica and Beverly Hills deal with the homeless differently and it was remarkable," Dukakis said. "Both cities are fairly liberal, but in Beverly Hills the homeless are removed, while in Santa Monica there are people trying to really help the homeless."

Landreth said that in the near future, the Coalition is looking to expand their volunteer base, seeking new sources for food donations, and looking to add a mental health component to their mobile clinic in order to provide care to 25 percent of the



Service with a smile: (L-R) Elana Banafsheha, Kami Manoucheri and Niloofer Nejat-Bina

homeless individuals they feed who have mental health problems.

Chadorchi said her Jewish faith has been instrumental in motivating her to help the homeless, especially during the holidays.

"It is our duty as Jews to heal the world one person at a time-- 'Tikkun Olam,'" Chadorchi said. "I'm here to let people out there know that one person can really make a difference."

For more information about the West Hollywood Food Coalition, call (310) 288-0090.

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from the hills of beverly



The South Has Come Back

Words should reflect our diversity.

By Rudy Cole

My mother always gave sage advice: Always wear clean underwear in case you get run over by a streetcar and never, ever argue about politics or religion. One out of two isn't bad.

What reminded me of these words of insight was the mini-furor over season's greetings usage being debated in the halls of Congress, where one of our duly elected promoted legislation mandating Christmas' return, to sundry court challenges on religious displays, and my own too politically correct words at a recent city event.

I found myself wishing people a "Happy Holidays." Wrong. It is Christmas and it is Hanukkah. I should be able to say Merry Christmas to my Christian friends and Happy Hanukkah to my coreligionists without a trace of self-consciousness. Why not enjoy both? Although Hanukkah is not a really major celebration, it has great histori-

cal significance and Christmas has a message we can all embrace: Peace on earth, good will toward men (and women, too.)

Christmas is a wonderful holiday. We all give gifts, we should be sensitive to the needs of the less fortunate around us and we take days off from work. We do this whether we are Jewish or Christian or any other religious conviction during this "holiday season."

I am all for separating church and state. A Star of David or a Christian symbol on official installations is not appropriate and flies in the face of the founder's intentions, most of all the enlightened efforts of **Thomas Jefferson**.

But beyond that, let's enjoy our rich diversity. Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah are really fine.

Before you reach for your e-mails, I do have some minor credentials on this issue.

As chair of the Recreation and Parks Commission, I joined the effort to prevent an evangelical group from using our public parks for a purely one-religion installation.

We lost that effort in the courts, and are just now trying to revisit the issue, but it had a desultory effect on our semi-annual Affaire in the Gardens. In order to inhibit the religious display, we were forced to dismantle some art works to comply with the "nothing after dark" or permanent display ruling. A silly rule, but the only one possible that avoided a plethora of sectarian works.

What really triggered most of these thoughts was the holiday block party on South Beverly last Saturday. Where else but Beverly Hills could we find a rabbi's son leading a choral group performing, among other melodies, Christmas carols? The ever enigmatic but talented high school music director **Joel Pressman** again made us proud of the marvelous Madrigal Singers.

Speaking of the South Beverly Drive event, it was a valiant, good beginning and long overdue. "SoBev's" had the support of most, but not all, the merchants and restaurants on South Beverly Drive. For the first time the street actually had some holiday

tree lights and a real festive feel-- thanks to the work of the Chamber of Commerce and its new CEO **Dan Walsh**.

Mayor **Linda Briskman** even welcomed Santa Claus who arrived, not on a sleigh, but a siren wailing city fire engine. The kids loved it.

Nice to see many locals support South Beverly. Some we saw included **Police Chief and Mrs. David Snowden**; former Mayor **Allan Alexander**; former Planning Commissioner **Mitch Dawson** and wife **Bobbe Joy**, one of the event co-chairs; *Beverly Hills Weekly* publisher **Josh Gross**, *Courier* publisher **Clifton & Candace Smith**, Assemblymember **Paul Koretz** and his aide **Jay Greenstein**; Councilmember **Frank & Judie Fenton**, Councilmember **Steve Webb** and many Chamber staff folks. There could have been more Chamber board members aside from Dawson and Alexander, but I may have missed them-- the Chamber officers need to attend more city activities. This was a good beginning, and hopefully it will have even more support next year.

This all has some history worth remembering. For years, South Beverly Drive merchants were the poor cousins of the city. The first to really take up this challenge to regionalism was the late silent film star **Corrine Griffith**. Ms. Griffith did not squander her earnings in the movie business,

from the hills cont. on page 9

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from the hills cont. from page 8

but instead wisely invested in Beverly Hills real estate, as did her contemporary **Mary Pickford**.

Corrine created the Four Corners at Charleville and Beverly Drive and had a decades long battle with City Hall over support for her pioneer shops and others adorning "her street." She fought City Hall, not always successfully. When she decided to create the "tribute to the movies" statue at the corners of Beverly, Beverwil and Olympic, her party was ignored by the council who actually held their own City Hall dedication. Griffith's pre-opening party was at the Rodeo Manor apartment of **Alfred Karlsen**, a socialite art collector. Both party groups arrived for the dedication, however, the separate social events only demonstrated the city's feelings about South Beverly, according to Ms. Griffith.

South Beverly had no city holiday decorations, the city made hardly any effort to promote the street, giving far more attention to the triangle businesses and this was also attitude of the Chamber of Commerce. Imagine Ms. Griffith's surprise when the Chamber decided to move its headquarters to South Beverly! Through the years, the cudgels of South Beverly Drive recognition were also promoted by people such as **Russ Levi**-- his parents owned the recently closed Liquor Castle, just south of Four Corners.

The south versus north battle lines were also drawn in many City Council elections in those post war days. Southside residents often bemoaned the lack of representation on the City Council and what they perceived as a lack of sensitivity on growth issues. This ended dramatically with the election of **Leonard Horwin** and **Frank Clapp** in the 1960s.

Griffith, for historical accuracy, had other even more contentious fights. She supported efforts to abolish the federal income tax and many right wing causes, but never rightist groups that were racist. She built her own home in a miniature version of Jefferson's estate-- he was her hero. Her loyalty to the south extended even to her dining habits. Her eatery of choice was **Mike Romanof's** on South Rodeo. Corrine, Christmas, at long last, has come to the South.

Our assemblymember, Paul Koretz, is one of the best arguments against term limits. Next year will be his last representing us in Sacramento, and Beverly Hills could not have had a better friend. A vigorous supporter of public education and funding for local districts, he helped lead battles to assure the state did not raid tax dollars needed by municipalities. We will do an analysis of his remarkable legislative history later next year-- he still has one more year before he

leaves office.

Koretz came to the legislature after serving on the West Hollywood City Council, including terms as mayor. Hopefully, this will not be the end of his government service. Friends are urging him to run for state senate 2008.

We have lost too many able, honest and dedicated people to term limits. What is really wrong with making governmental service a career? There is a constant option called elections. Yes, it is difficult to remove an incumbent, but that alone should not limit our democratic right of choice. Term limits really bring more power to the special interests, to the bureaucracy and to other permanent denizens of Sacramento. A newly elected governor can simply wait for legislative colleagues to be "termed out" and more power installed in the corner office. It also makes for a confusing game of political rotation and pits people with similar programs and positions against each other. Not good for the democratic process and not good for our loss of able leaders such as Koretz.

Waiting to try for his job in the assembly are West Hollywood Mayor **Abbe Land** and former Los Angeles City Councilmember **Mike Feuer**. Because of their geographic bases, Beverly Hills will probably decide the winner, although we represent a minority of the voting population. Both have good ties to Beverly Hills, but Feuer has three

members of the council and three of the Board of Education as endorsers. Land is a co-director of the Free Clinic, a social agency with strong support in Beverly Hills and Feuer's father was an active volunteer at the Maple Counseling Center. On social issues, there are not too many differences, but there are on some bread and butter matters. We will examine this race more closely next month, but for now, endorsements and fund-raising are where their energies are directed.

Final "holiday" note: This season, as always, many city workers will be at their stations instead of with families. We should be especially grateful to the men and women of the police and fire departments who serve and protect us so well all year long.

Take a moment to thank those you see on Christmas day for just being there for us.

Be healthy, safe and enjoy. And just maybe next year we can all learn to disagree without being disagreeable. It could happen.

Rudy Cole served for eight years as a member and chair of the city's Recreation and Parks Commission. He also was President of the Greystone Foundation and served on three other city committees. Rudy can be reached at: Rudy@bhweekly.com.

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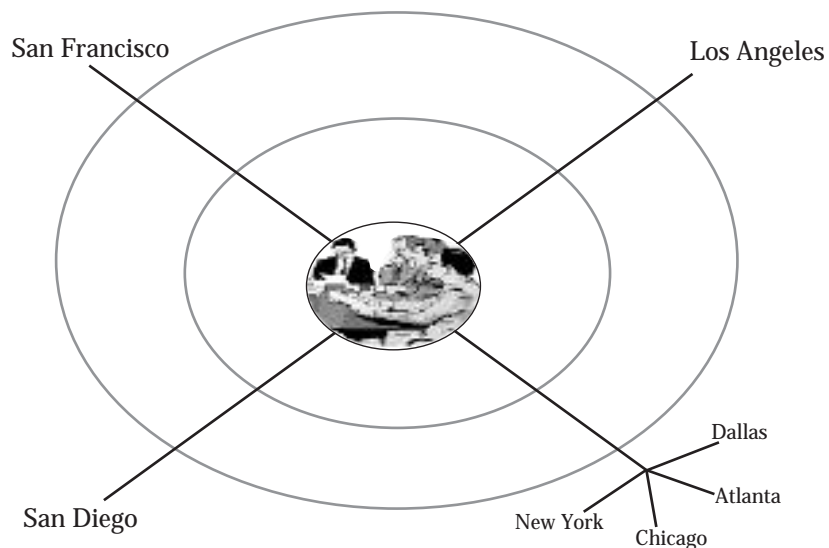
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briefs

November 2005 Home Sales In Beverly Hills Rise; Condo Sales In 90210, 90211 Down

November 2005 sale prices for single-family residences increased in the 90212 on two homes by 28.4 percent and in the 90211 on six homes by 8.3 percent. Sale prices also increased in the 90210 on 11 homes by 17.4

90211, \$550,000; and in the 90212, \$995,000.

In Los Angeles County as a whole, sales of single-family residences are up 21.5 percent to a median price of \$525,000, and condominium prices are up 19.6 percent to a median price of \$407,000 since November 2004.

COC Update: Bids Looking Up

Citizens Oversight Committee members discussed the improvement in the recent bids for Beverly Vista's Building B project at last Wednesday's meeting. Currently 75 percent



Virginia Robinson Gardens joins the Chamber: (L-R) Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Dan Walsh, Friends of Robinson Gardens President Maralee Beck, Patron Gala Co-Chair Laura Alpert, Mayor Linda Briskman, Patron Gala Co-Chair Leslie Kavanaugh and Virginia Robinson Gardens Director Tim Lindsay.

percent since November 2004, according to a report published by Data Quick Real Estate news (www.dqnews.com).

Condominium prices in Beverly Hills 90210 decreased on five condos by 31.9 percent and in the 90211 on one condo by 6.8 percent. Condos in the 90212, however, increased on three condos by 13.2 percent.

The median price for single-family residences in the 90210 zip code is \$1.99 million; in the 90212, \$1.8 million; and in 90211, \$1.3 million.

The median price for condominiums in the 90210 zip code is \$717,000 million; in the

of the project has gone to bid, with bids averaging more than 20 percent over what was originally estimated by the Board of Education consultants.

Several of the bid packages that decreased in price were masonry and brick veneer, casework and door, rough carpentry and wood framing. For example, the original bid for rough carpentry was \$1.2 million and decreased with a bid coming in last Tuesday for \$600,000. The original estimate for rough carpentry was \$450,000.

Because the historical renovation of parts



Afi Kashanian's fifth grade class at Horace Mann were presented purple wrist bands called "HM Huskies bands" from the PTA for their efforts to help those in need. The class raised more than \$1,100 for Hurricane Katrina and are in the process of raising money for the Children's Hospital of San Diego, with almost \$200 to date.



Madrigal Singers perform with Choral Director Joel Pressman last week.

of Building B is extensive, the cost of salvaging the building would cost more than it would if the building were completely demolished and a new building built in its place, according to the COC members. Some members, like Julie Steinberg, expressed concern for the transition between the new design and the old design and its costs to the district.

As the original bricks and auditorium seating as well as other signature elements of the original building will be incorporated into the new building, the construction became more costly. "It would have been a lot cheaper if we demolished the whole thing instead of keeping the [original] façade," Steinberg said.

Building B demolition is scheduled to begin next month.

The COC also discussed the budget for the Science and Technology Center at the high school as the board initially approved \$27 million. Currently, the costs are more than \$31.5 million. The budget will go back to the board once again for approval next month.

Beverly High Singers Perform Live

The 2005 Holiday Concert from the Beverly High Performing Arts Department was held on Wed. Dec. 14 7:30 p.m. in the K.L. Peters Auditorium, featuring the school's three choral groups-- the Concert Choir, Minnesingers and Madrigal Singers, under the direction of Joel Pressman.



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briefs

took the stage to offer their versions of favorites such as "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "Jingle Bells" and "White Christmas." Continuing a long-standing tradition, Pressman invited Madrigal alumni to join the current group on stage for one num-



The Mary Pickford Award winners for outstanding holiday decorations were announced by Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce at Tuesday's City Council meeting. Pictured (L-R) are Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce CEO Dan Walsh accepting on behalf of runner-up Ralph Lauren, Visual Manager Clif Taylor accepting on behalf of winner Kenquest Inc., Landscape Designer Joel Garza, Property Manager Mark Walter and Mayor Linda Briskman. (Not present is runner-up 2 Rodeo.)

The program included traditional Christmas holiday and Hanukkah songs. The Concert Choir opened the evening with such favorites as "The First Noel/Pachelbel's Canon" and "Lady Madonna." A highlight was a swinging version of "Santa Baby" with soloist Madeline Trachtenberg.

The Minnesingers followed with a program including "S'vivon," "Calypso Carol," "Jingle Bell Christmas," and Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols," accompanied on harp

ber. Among them were Diana Gordon and daughter Jenny, and City Councilmember Barry Brucker, who with son Richie, joined his daughter Lauren on stage. The Madrigals finished their performance with a rendition of "O, Holy Night" featuring solos by Dani Haber and Nicole Lewis.

The concert concluded with the combined choirs filling the stage for five songs, including "Bell Carol of the Kings," "Al Hanissim," and the finale, "With a Voice of Singing."



The Friends of the Beverly Hills Public Library hosted over 40 volunteers and 25 board members and associated members of the community at its Annual Friends Volunteer Recognition Luncheon last week. Guests enjoyed a performance of Beverly High's Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Richard Farmer, that performed during the event. The Friends luncheon celebrates the efforts of the many volunteers who work in the two Friends bookstores located in the public library. Proceeds from these stores are used to enhance and supplement the library's collections, provide programs for all ages and support many services at the library. The Friends membership drive is currently underway. For more information on Friends of the Beverly Hills Public Library, call (310) 288-2286.

by Sarah Wachtel, featuring soprano Esther Park.

After intermission, the Madrigal Singers

City Asks To Recycle Christmas Trees

To continue the commitment to sustain the city's healthy city environment, the Beverly

Hills Public Works Department has asked residents to recycle their Christmas trees.

If you have a green yard waste container, cut your tree into small pieces and place it in the container. If you do not have a green container, place the tree in the alley next to your trash can. Remember to remove the stand, ornaments and lights from the tree.

On a monthly average, 8 percent more refuse has been recycled since the implementation of Phases 1 and 2 of the new two-cart system earlier this year. Phase 3 will soon be in effect in other parts of the city.

In May 2005, the City of Beverly Hills Solid Waste Division introduced the two-cart system. The new collection system utilizes color-coded containers: black containers for all mixed trash including recyclables and green containers for landscape clippings and yard waste.

The mixed waste is sent to a material recovery facility where the recyclables are sorted from the refuse mixture. The yard clippings in the green containers are sent to a composting facility. The city's decision to change to a MRF disposal site was based upon cost effectiveness and the desire to increase diversion from the landfills.

Phases 1 and 2 of the conversion are complete. Phase 1 covered properties served by alleys, from Rexford Drive to Wetherly Drive, between Burton Way and Wilshire Boulevard. Phase 2 covered all of the single-family properties that are served by alleys, from Clark Drive to Linden Drive between Charleville Boulevard and Gregory Way.

The implementation of Phase 3 begins in February 2006. Containers will be delivered

to all of the single-family properties that are served by alleys in the 300 and 400 south blocks between Spalding Drive and Robertson Boulevard. Residents will be notified before their block is converted to the two-cart system.

Council Extends Interim Ordinance Prohibiting Two-Lot Development

The City Council, upon city staff recommendation, extended the interim ordinance prohibiting development on two lots for an additional 10 months or until the effective date of the permanent ordinance at Tuesday's council meeting. The ordinance would have expired today.

On Nov. 7, the council adopted an interim ordinance establishing the maximum width and depths of lots to not exceed the average width and depth of the contiguous properties in the same block for single-family residential lots in the central R-1 zone and no residence can occupy more than one lot or parcel.

On Dec 6, the Planning Commission adopted a resolution to recommend that the council permanently adopt the ordinance. A permanent ordinance was also approved for introduction at the next council meeting. The issue of lot line adjustments garnered concern amongst council members, in that property owners may not be able to make minor adjustments on their property. An amendment regarding this issue is planned for the introduction next month.

South Wetherly Drive residents have recently garnered support from the neighboring Southwest Homeowners Association, some of

briefs cont. on page 24

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sports & scores



Norman Players Named as Ocean League MVPs in Football, Girls' Volleyball

BHHS graduate Harvey's future with Kansas City Royals uncertain.

By Steven Herbert

Spencer Paysinger, a Beverly High receiver-defensive back, was named as the Ocean League's most valuable player in a vote of the league's football coaches released this month.

Paysinger led the league in receiving yards with 1,093 and was tied for 11th in tackles with 67, according to statistics posted on the high school sports website, Maxpreps.com.

Norman linebacker David Brustein was named as the defensive player of the year, after leading the league in tackles with 155.

Five Beverly Hills players were named first-team all-league-- kicker Trevor Charlston offensive linemen Damone Franklin, Brandon Kim and Tyler Wirontono and defensive back Marcus Jones.

Seven were named to the second team-- punter Sam Forrest, defensive linemen Tyler Grady and Kent Seguiria, running back Ramon Judkins, quarterback Meyer Linter, linebacker Darrian Richardson and tight end Jon Skura.

Brustein, Franklin, Grady, Jones, Paysinger, Seguiria and Wirontono are seniors, while Charlston, Forrest, Kim, Linter, Richardson and Skura are juniors and Judkins is a sophomore.

The Normans won their first league championship since 1996 with a 4-0-1 record in league play.

Girls' Volleyball

Danielle Haber was named as the Ocean

League's most valuable player, while fellow Beverly High senior outside hitter Alissa Jameson was named as the league's most outstanding player in a vote of league coaches released this month.

Norman junior setter Bettina Shore was named first-team all-league, while Beverly Hills senior middle hitter Rosie McClaren and sophomore libero Rebecca Rosen were named to the second team.

The Normans won the league championship with a 10-0 record in league play.

Major League Baseball

Ken Harvey, a 1996 Beverly High graduate, was designated for assignment by the Kansas City Royals Friday, as the American League team needed to make room for four free agent signees on its 40-man roster.

Under Major League Baseball rules, the Royals have 10 days to trade Harvey or he will become a free agent if he declines to accept a minor league contract.

Harvey, who played in the 2004 All-Star Game, was limited to 12 games in 2005, mainly because of a back injury. He didn't play after May 18.

Harvey, 27, tore an Achilles' tendon during an off-season workout recently and underwent surgery. The first baseman-designated hitter is expected to be sidelined for at least six months, a Royals official said.

Girls' Soccer

South Girls' Varsity Soccer Tournament Beverly Hills 3, Long Beach Cabrillo 0
Sophomore forward Rachel Kove had a

goal and an assist and Gina Hendron and Rebecca Gold combined on the shutout in a ninth-place quarterfinal Dec. 10 at South Torrance High School.

Kove scored in the second half off Netta Pelleg's assist. Joey Sundry scored her fourth goal of the season in the 38th minute off Kove's cross.

Rebecca Rosen opened the scoring in the 16th minute of the 70-minute game with her first goal.

The Normans led in shots, 17-6.

Granada Hills 0, Beverly Hills 0 (Granada Hills advances on penalty kicks, 4-3)

Hendron preserved the tie with a late save on a breakaway, but fractured a wrist and is expected to be sidelined until early February, Norman coach Ryan Franks said.

"This was a very even [game] with non-stop action," Franks said after the ninth-place semifinal Dec. 10 at South Torrance High School. "I was very proud of our team for their defensive effort. Our team has been passing the ball around extremely well all year, and finally we are competing defensively."

South Bay/Westside Tournament Beverly Hills 3, Gardena Serra 0

Gold, a freshman, made four saves for her first shutout of the season as the Normans recorded their fourth consecutive shutout and Nikki Sharaf had a goal and two assists in a pool play game Dec. 12 at Serra.

sports & scores cont. on page 13

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sports & scores cont. from page 12

After a scoreless first half, Sharaf opened the scoring in the 48th minute of the 80-minute game on a breakaway. Sundry scored her fifth goal of the season in the 61st minute off Sharaf's cross.

Freshman Tanya Djafar scored her first goal in the 66th minute off a set play in which Alison Litvak touched the ball to Sharaf, who then passed to Djafar, who put a shot into the upper right corner.

Beverly Hills led in shots, 18-5.

South Torrance 3, Beverly Hills 0

The Normans allowed three second-half goals and failed to capitalize on their scoring chances in a pool play game Dec. 17 at South Torrance.

With the game scoreless, Kove had a breakaway, but her shot hit a goal post. Amanda Brandeis also had a shot that hit a post on a breakaway.

The Spartans led in shots, 18-13. Gold made 11 saves.

"South had a majority of the possession, however they were very susceptible to counter attacks because they were very aggressive coming forward," Franks said after his team fell to 4-4-1. "So despite the fact they were able to pass the ball around, we had plenty of opportunities."

What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to play in the Palm Desert Tournament Tuesday through next Thursday.

Boys' Soccer

Beverly Hills 1,

Torrance Bishop Montgomery 1

Daniel Pourbaba scored on an approximately 40-yard shot in the 51st minute for the Normans, who allowed the equalizer in the 71st minute of an 80-minute nonleague game Dec. 10 at Bishop Montgomery.

The Knights' goal came as the result of "bad marking on the far post," Beverly Hills coach Steve Rappaport said.

The Normans led 8-7 in shots. Beverly Hills goalkeeper David Roston made six saves.

Manhattan Beach Mira Costa 1, Beverly Hills 0

The Normans allowed a sixth-minute goal in an 80-minute nonleague game at Nickoll Field last Thursday night in their fourth 1-0 loss in seven games this season.

The Mustangs led in shots, 8-6. Roston made seven saves.

"We're not getting enough shots," Rappaport said. "Our defense has been playing great. We've got to improve our offense, just get some more attack."

Beverly Hills defenders Victor Byun and Jake Weissberg "had really strong games" Rappaport said, who also praised sweeper Evan Zarider's play.

Beverly Hills 1, South Torrance 1

Daniel Benabou scored in stoppage time in the second half as the Normans rallied for the tie in a nonleague game at South Torrance Friday.

Benabou took a pass from Diego Guardia Villegas and put a left-footed shot into the net

for his first goal of the season.

The Spartans scored in the 12th minute.

The Normans (0-5-3) led in shots, 12-10, with 11 of their shots coming in the second half. Roston "had a real outstanding game," making nine saves, including stopping a penalty kick in the 70th minute, Rappaport said.

The Beverly Hills attack benefited from a series of positional changes Rappaport made. Pourbaba was shifted from midfield to forward and Villegas from forward to midfield.

"It really helped us, mainly because we needed two forwards who could receive the ball with their feet," Rappaport said. "Now we have two forwards [who] are much more comfortable playing with their back to the goal and receiving the ball. It's allowing us to move up together as a team much better."

Another change involved moving sophomore Alex Lichtenberg from midfield to stopper and he "played very well," Rappaport said.

Benabou "had a great game," and Sam Forrest, moved from forward to midfield "had a really good game," for the Normans, Rappaport said.

South Bay/Westside Tournament Bellflower St. John Bosco 2, Beverly Hills 0

The Normans allowed goals in the third and 37th minute in a pool-play game Dec. 6 at Nickoll Field

The Braves led in shots, 8-5, but were held to one shot in the second half. Roston made six saves.

"We're just not getting any pressure on the goal," Rappaport said. "We're getting very little production out of our forwards. In the second half, we played fantastic defense."

Beverly Hills 1, Los Angeles Loyola 1

The Normans were one minute away from their second victory over the Cubs in Rappaport's 18 seasons as their coach, only to allow a goal in the 79th minute of the 80-minute game in a pool-play game Dec. 8 at Nickoll Field.

Holden Smetana scored in the third minute for Beverly Hills off a cross from Pourbaba. Scott Larrabee scored for Loyola (1-2-1) in the 79th minute of the 80-minute game, capitalizing on a miscommunication by the Normans, Rappaport said.

The Cubs led in shots, 7-6. Roston made six saves

"Other than one unfortunate mistake, we played fantastic," Rappaport said. "We gave them the tie. It was a great accomplishment to get the tie, but it's kind of devastating that we were a minute away from a win."

Beverly Hills (0-3-1) was "solid in the whole midfield," Rappaport said, as Joey Kramer "had a phenomenal game again" and Pourbaba "had a terrific game."

Byun and fellow defender Rashed Al Felajj also drew praise on Rappaport for their defending against Larrabee.

Defending champion Loyola was ranked first in the Southern Section Division II pre-season poll released Nov. 28.

North Hollywood Harvard-Westlake 1, Beverly Hills 0

The Normans were shut out for the fourth

time in their six games this season and the Wolverines scored in the 35th-minute of the 80-minute game off an indirect kick in the pool play game Dec. 13 at Nickoll Field.

Beverly Hills led 12-8 in shots. Roston made seven saves.

"We were kind of flat for some reason," Rappaport said. "For whatever reason, we didn't seem as sharp as we would have expected to be. Defensively we're fine. We've got to start scoring. It doesn't matter who we play, we're just not finishing. We've got to get better before league season, or we're going to be in trouble."

The game was the first the Normans played with several players who served five-game suspensions to start the season in what Rappaport called "an internal disciplinary action."

What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to play at Brentwood Jan. 4 at 3 p.m. in a nonleague game.

Girls' Water Polo Redondo 13, Beverly Hills 3

The Normans tied the score on Jackie Salgado's goal with 2:13 left in the first quarter, then allowed the next 12 goals in their season opener in a nonleague game at Redondo Nov. 28.

The Sea Hawks took a 2-1 lead with 20 seconds remaining in the first quarter, and led 7-1 at halftime and 11-1 after three quarters.

Tiffany Zarrin ended the streak by scoring for Beverly Hills with 4:56 remaining. Emily Ives scored for the Normans with 2:40 left.

Goaltender Marissa Srouer made nine saves for Beverly Hills.

Torrance 6, Beverly Hills 3

Salgado scored twice and Grace Oh once for the Normans in a nonleague game last Thursday at the Victor E. Benstead Plunge in Torrance.

Oh's goal 3:01 into the game gave the Normans their first lead of the season. The Tartars scored the final two goals of the first quarter and the first in the second, taking a 3-1 lead 6:00 before halftime. Salgado cut the lead to 3-2 with 5:37 left in the quarter, but Torrance regained a two-goal lead by scoring with 1:05 to go in the half.

Beverly Hills again pulled within one, 4-3, on Salgado's goal with 3:03 left in the third quarter. The Tartars scored 57 seconds later and led 5-3 entering the fourth quarter.

Torrance scored the only goal of the fourth quarter with 5:55 remaining.

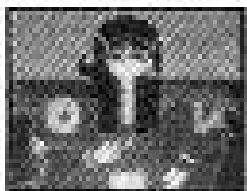
Srouer made 11 saves.

What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to play in the three-day Anaheim Western Tournament beginning Jan. 5.

Steven Herbert also covers sports for the Los Angeles Times and The Associated Press. He welcomes feedback and suggestions. He can be reached by e-mail at StvHerbert@aol.com, by telephone at (310) 275-7943 or by fax at (310) 273-4519.

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coverstories

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

The *Weekly* looks at how Beverly Hills has raised money-- and spirits-- for those less fortunate this holiday season.

By Michelle Zenarosa



Beverly Hills schools collect food, money and supplies for worthy causes this holiday season.

You won't find coal in Beverly Hills stockings this year. With Christmas on Sunday and Hanukkah beginning its eight-day celebration this upcoming Monday, the holiday season is upon us bringing an ever greater appreciation for family, friends and loved ones to eat, drink and be merry. But for Beverly Hills students, local congregants and parishioners, this appreciation goes beyond family. It extends to complete strangers and those less fortunate. This holiday season Beverly Hills' places of worship along with students, parents and teachers, have raised thousands of dollars in clothing, food and toys, making this holiday season a little brighter for those in need.

BHUSD, in conjunction with the service learning theme of "Caring", is giving to the less fortunate in a big way this year, showing that they really care during the holiday season. All the schools in the district have made huge strides in providing aid to those in need throughout the year with a variety of projects that included not only donating, but hard work as well.

"The theme this year fits right into the service learning program and all of this is really important work for students to understand and to be able to show their caring during the holidays," said Diane Mead, project coordinator for service learning at Beverly High.

The high school carried out several projects this year including the traditional Madrigals visit to the Albion Street Elementary School in Los Angeles, where choir members gave presents and sang to the Albion Street students last Friday. The holiday gesture has been a Beverly High Madrigal tradition for more than 75 years.

Twenty student representatives from Beverly High also attended the Chamber of Commerce's South Beverly Block Party last Saturday as "Santa's Helpers." Students passed out balloons and water to the guests and directed parking. All proceeds from the event went to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Individual classes at the high school also lent out their hand this year. Students from Raquel Ramsey's English Learning class collected presents for the orphans at Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services in Los Angeles. Krisha Deaver's ninth and tenth grade English classes are committing five hours of their time reading books to the elderly or children who can't read over their winter break.

But the high school isn't the only school helping out this season. Students from all four of the elementary schools also put in their efforts for district-wide food and toy drives as well as individually.

"We have different competitions between the grades and it helps the kids really get excited about bringing in more while they're understanding what they're doing and why," said Nadine Neiman, Beverly Vista PTA president. "We have an incredibly successful food drive -- more successful than ever and the competition between the classes was really helpful."

Beverly Vista students made placemats and collected Christmas cards for homeless shelters. El Rodeo assembled toiletry kits for PATH (People Assisting The Homeless) and also conducted a "Joy Drive" in which students donated toys for the Westside Children's Center.

For eight years, Horace Mann has organized a Christmas Eve Feed The Hungry event with the West Hollywood Food Coalition in which students and their families make brown paper bag dinners and make Christmas cards for the homeless. The lunches include peanut butter jelly sandwiches, fruit, candy canes and bread.

"Kids have always really enjoyed it; they feel like they're helping their community," said Colleen Sternsheim, community service vice president for Horace Mann PTA. "They really enjoy making the cards. Everybody comes together at our school so it's a very satisfying experience knowing they can help without donating money. There are so many events about

donating money and it's hard for kids because they don't have money. This way they can actually donate their time and make a difference."

Last year, the event produced more than 2,000 brown bag dinners for the homeless.

With Christmas marking the 119th day since Hurricane Katrina struck, Beverly Hills students have been working diligently the past couple months to help their fellow students in the South.

Beverly Vista students have collected over 2,000 books to restock the library for a Pass Christian school in Mississippi that was devastated by the hurricane. Beverly Vista chose to adopt the school because it was awarded as a Blue Ribbon school, like BV.

"By taking a school district very much like our own school district that was destroyed and has nothing. For kids to go home and look through their collection of books and say, 'I think kids my age would enjoy reading this book and I've already read it so I'm going to donate this book,'-- just for them to come up with things like that on their own is more meaningful," Neiman said. "It's about kids doing for kids."

The school has had trouble in the past storing the books at Beverly Vista as Pass Christian has not had a place to put the books as everything has been destroyed. Beverly Vista is planning on transporting the books sometime after the New Year.

"We collected more books than we could ever imagine in our wildest dreams. We don't have anywhere else to store them. We're very lucky that we have been able to find a place to keep them," Neiman said. "You never know what you're going to get-- you figure a few hundred. You end up with a few thousand. The response is tremendous. You put boxes out there and they are overflowing beyond words."

Another problem Beverly Vista is currently facing is the transportation of the books. The school has attempted to work with UPS, however, the attempts have not been very receptive so they are looking for a member in the community to underwrite or sponsor the transportation of the books to Pass Christian.

El Rodeo has also been continuing their relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina victims through fund-raising, bake sales and donation of school supplies. Third graders at the school have collected money earmarked for hurricane victims through a service learning project for UNICEF. Junior high students at Horace Mann collected more than \$1,500 for the pets left homeless after Hurricane Katrina and fifth graders collected more than \$1,100 for hurricane victims.

"The thing about community service is that it's really easy for parents to go out and buy things and donate them, but the thing about doing them at the school is to make it something so that the kids can understand and participate in," Neiman said. "I can drop cans of food off for my kids and say, 'Yeah, our family participated,' but unless the kids understand what they're doing and why they're doing it, it's pointless. As adults, we give to many charities anyway. The point is to be involved."

Synagogues and churches have always set the standard for giving throughout the year, not just during Christmas and Hanukkah. With the recent world tragedies, many would believe that giving would not be as potent this holiday season. However, congregants have proven that myth wrong.

"This year the giving was the greatest I've seen in my many years here," said Colm O'Ryan, pastor at Good Shepherd Catholic Church of Beverly Hills. "I wouldn't have expected this year because of what they call the 'dawn of fatigue'-- people have been called on to give so much due to tsunamis and hurricanes. It was a tremendous outpouring of generosity."

Parishioners at Good Shepherd donated almost 300 gifts to a poorer parish, St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in the Pico-Union area of Los Angeles. The gifts were generated from the annual "Jesse Tree" project in which parishioners pick a tree ornament that describes the name, age and gift description of a member of the St. Thomas church and bring back a gift of that same description.

"The response was overwhelming. All the ornaments were gone from the tree," O'Ryan said. "The hall looked like a Tibetan store-- there were so many articles in there. It's one of those things where the giver is more enriched than the recipient."

Good Shepherd also runs an on-going service in which the church donates blankets and food service to the homeless twice a week.

Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church also runs a year-round program that feeds the homeless, providing food as well as clothing. For Christmas, the church planned a extra special festive lunch for those who come, decorating the room and making the holiday as celebratory as possible.

But Beverly Hills churches aren't the only ones helping--local synagogues are also expressing generosity for the Hanukkah season.

Chabad of Northern Beverly Hills on North Foothill Road will be having a children's carnival Sunday, Dec. 25 to help kids keep Hanukkah spirit as well as fundraises an average of \$10,000 per year to distribute money packages to poorer families throughout Los Angeles.

cover story cont. to page 24

CANDID CAMERAS IN BUSINESS DISTRICT

Former mayor continues his 10-year mission to install cameras in the business sector to deter crime.

By Andrea Simpson



Camera ready: former Mayor Allan Alexander backs a plan to implement CCTV in Beverly Hills.

Since he stepped down from the City Council nearly 10 years ago, former Mayor Allan Alexander has continued to urge support from the business community, police department and council to implement cameras in the business triangle to prevent crime and identify criminals.

In the terrorist aftermath of 9/11 worldwide and locally with last week's stabbing death on Wilshire, Alexander says there isn't a better time to create a program, and he may finally be getting the support he's been waiting for.

Alexander will speak to the City Council on behalf of the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce Jan. 17 indicating the Chamber's support for implementing a program within the business district for Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) and Automobile License Plate Recognition (ALPR).

Closed circuit television involves using television cameras mounted in public areas or on streets with the pictures wirelessly sent to the police station for review. But Alexander's appearance before the council isn't something new. It has been a personal crusade for him since 1996, when he referred to the project as Circle of Protection (COP).

Ten years ago, following a trip to Europe, Alexander made a televised presentation to the

council on what the cities of London and Monte Carlo had implemented, using CCTV to both deter criminal behavior and identify criminals. Like automated intersection enforcement can reduce traffic accidents, Alexander hopes CCTV will also reduce crime.

"When I was on the City Council I was concerned about the violence and terrorism that was occurring in Europe, and my conclusion was that at one point it was going to cross the Atlantic," Alexander said. "There was no reason with what was going on, like the bombings in particular with the IRA in England, that it could not happen in the United States. I read quite a bit about the utilization of cameras in London and about what they had done to secure the area and putting them in train stations and in other locations in the center of London. They had an array of cameras hooked into the police station with a large bank of screens where they could observe what was happening."

At that time, one setback to the program was the absence of wireless systems and only fiber optics, which Beverly Hills did not extensively have throughout the city. Knowing this, Alexander recommended working with GTE and Creative Artists Agency, which years ago was in the process of installing major fiber optics for its building on South Santa Monica and Wilshire. But the city never got a program off the ground.

Councilmember Barry Brucker, along with Councilmember Jimmy Delshad, serves on the subcommittee to review the program's implementation.

"I believe the council is very encouraged about learning more about the capabilities of CCTV with respect to primarily having evidence of a crime after it's taken place. CCTV

cover story cont. on page 27

BEVERLY HILLS PLACES HOMELESS AND TRANSPORTATION AT THE TOP

Westside cities make strides in combating traffic congestion and homeless issues on its streets.

By Michelle Zenarosa

In a county-wide effort to decrease homelessness in the Los Angeles County, Beverly Hills signed a letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs supporting six principles outlining the importance of creating facilities for homeless veterans.

With approximately one-third of the 93,000 homeless in Los Angeles County as veterans, the Westside Cities Council of Governments (COG) has put homelessness and transportation issues at the top of its important priorities to address. The COG consists of several cities including Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, Culver City, Santa Monica and the newly-joined City of Los Angeles.

All the cities, excluding Los Angeles, due to its newness in the organization, have adopted resolutions supporting plans to address the needs of the homeless in their cities.

"All the cities in the Westside have problems with homelessness," said John Heilman, West



Westside cities hope to find homes for homeless veterans in the area.

Hollywood Mayor Pro Tempore. "What we've been doing is trying to work jointly and lobby for our share of funds so that we can address issues. We've been working on the Veterans Administration property trying to lobby the federal government to ensure that there are services there for veterans who are homeless."

To more succinctly address the two issues, members of the COG were appointed to two subcommittees. Beverly Hills Mayor Linda Briskman and Heilman serve on the Transportation Subcommittee, which pays close attention to activities related to Exposition Line construction and the Red Line Extension. On the Homelessness Issues Subcommittee are Culver City Councilmember Carol Gross and Santa Monica Councilmember Richard Bloom.

"There are thousands of homeless people-- about 11 percent total in the country which is extraordinary if you think about that large a percentage being located in one county of the country," Bloom said. "Inevitably there needs to be additional housing for homeless persons throughout the county. The COG is working towards that. The Council of Governments is very interested in the issue."

The approved letter's six principles recommended that the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration (VA) site, the largest VA site in nation, encompassing 387 acres, be maintained for the direct benefit of veterans.

In 1888, John P. Jones and Arcadia B. de Baker granted the land in a deed as an Old Soldiers Land that would be perpetually preserved for veterans. In addition, in 1988-- 100 years later-- the Cranston Act was passed to protect the future uses of the property on 109 of the 387 acres.

"It's very easy to take a parochial view of a piece of property and say, 'We can do something that costs us money or we can do something that can make us money that can be used to do other things,'" said Maria Rychlicki, Beverly Hills Director of Community Relations. "The spirit of the VA property was retained for the uses of veterans. We should not be creating uses for sales or for lease that are not related to our nation's veterans."

The letter outlining the six principles was created in response to an on-going study conducted by the federal government to see what could be developed on the site and how the property could maximize benefits for the federal government and local communities. After the study was conducted, federal staff came back to recommend that the West L.A. VA site be used for a large amount of commercialization and housing.

The descendants of those who created the original 1888 deed were in attendance at the Sept. 22 public meeting at the Wadsworth Theatre that discussed the West L.A. VA site and declared their opposition to the commercialization of the site.

Currently, Santa Monica has also signed the letter and the COG has come together as an organization to come against the commercialization of the VA site.

Fourteen congressmen, including Hilda Solis and Adam Schiff, along with Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer have also signed a letter urging the federal government to maintain the site for the benefit of veterans.

All COG cities have been tremendously impacted by homelessness, particularly Santa Monica, which is implementing a "Bring L.A. Home" program that works towards ending homelessness. Cities in the program also include Pasadena and Long Beach. Beverly Hills has not formally joined the program, however, as COG continues to address the issue, Beverly Hills is indirectly involved, according to Bloom.

Culver City has also had problems in its downtown area and parks in residential neighborhoods that become havens for the homeless.

"We have a problem. We certainly don't have the size of the problem Santa Monica, but we have a problem just as [Beverly Hills] does," Gross said. "This is not a happy situation."

Although homelessness is not as visible in Beverly Hills as it is in other Westside cities, the city acknowledges that it is still a problem. In the Westside alone, it has been estimated that about 30 percent of the homeless in the region are veterans so the Veterans site could potentially bring a large relief to the area.

Currently, the city donates funds to PATH (People Assisting The Homeless), Westside Food Bank and local churches to provide assistance to the homeless.

"The homelessness issues are prevalent in the Westside and we're part of the Westside," Rychlicki said. "We're looking for solutions that transcend boundaries. It's not a Beverly Hills or Santa Monica solution, it's a Westside solution. If each city would request funds [from the federal government] and combine bank accounts, we could create larger facilities and have larger impact."

The second major issue regarding transportation has also been addressed by the COG, as the subcommittee looks to the Red Line extension and Exposition Line construction.

"The Westside has so many different residential areas and so many business communities that we need as much transit as we can [get] as parking gets more difficult and as gasoline costs more.

cover story cont. to page 24

police blotter & arrest summary

City of Beverly Hills
Week of: December 13, 2005

The Beverly Hills Weekly receives the information that appears below from the Beverly Hills Police Department. This information is released each week to the public. We assume no responsibility for any errors or omissions in the police blotter.

Police Blotter

Robbery: Occurred at 0100 on 12/11/05 in the 400 block of South Crescent Drive. Unknown suspect(s) struck the victim until he was unconscious. Suspect(s) then removed victim's wallet and bicycle and fled the location undetected. Loss: \$550

Burglary: Occurred between 1600 and 1800 on 12/10/05 in the 300 block of North Almont Drive. Unknown suspect(s) used key to enter the location and removed property. Suspect fled the location undetected. Loss: \$150

Occurred between 2230 on 12/08/05 and 0415

on 12/09/05 in the 300 block of North Bedford Drive. Unknown suspect(s) used unknown tool to enter several suites at the location. Suspect(s) ransacked the locations. Loss: Unknown

Occurred between 1700 and 2330 on 12/07/05 in the 100 block of North La Peer Drive. Unknown suspect(s) used force to gain entry to the location. Suspect(s) removed property and fled the location undetected.

Occurred between 1900 on 12/05/05 and 1900 on 12/07/05 in the 200 block of North Crescent Drive. Unknown suspect(s) used force to gain entry to the location. Suspect(s) removed property without permission and set up residence. Loss: \$2,950

Occurred between 1600 on 11/16/05 and 1945 on 12/06/05 in the 300 block of Oakhurst Drive. Unknown suspect(s) entered the location through a locked window and removed property. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected. Loss: Unknown.

Burglary/Forgery: Occurred between 1600

and 1640 on 12/03/05 in the 9600 block of Wilshire Blvd. Suspect #1: Female White, 51, 5'6", 144 lbs., brown hair and brown eyes. Suspect #2: Female White, 22, 5'5", 110 lbs., brown hair and brown eyes. Suspect #3: Female White, 60's, No further description. Suspects entered the location and used fraudulent credit card to purchase merchandise. Suspects fled the location. Loss: \$427.59

Grand Theft: Occurred between 1300 on 12/08/05 and 1200 on 12/12/05 in the 700 block of North Rodeo Drive. Unknown suspect(s) used force to gain entry to the location. Suspect(s) removed property and fled the location undetected. Loss: \$1,500

Occurred between 1750 and 1800 on 12/10/05 in the 100 block of North Swall Drive. Unknown suspect(s) removed victim's bicycle from an unsecured location. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected. Loss: \$1,799

Occurred between 1330 and 1500 on 12/07/05 in the 400 block of North Camden Drive. Unknown suspect(s) entered the location and removed merchandise from an unattended counter. Suspect(s) fled the location without paying for the merchandise. Loss: \$1,000

Battery: Occurred at 0228 on 12/10/05 in the 9400 block of Wilshire Blvd. Suspect: Male

White, 34, 6'0", 205 lbs., blond hair and brown eyes. Suspect defrauded a cabdriver by refusing to pay the taxi fare. Suspect pushed the cab driver when the cab driver attempted to stop him. Suspect was arrested.

Occurred between 1420 and 1435 on 12/08/05 in the 200 block of South Moreno Drive. Suspect: Male Juvenile. Suspect assaulted two victims and punched one of the victims. Suspect fled the location.

Forgery: Occurred at 2000 on 12/10/05 in the 1000 block of Calle Vista Drive. Unknown suspect(s) forged victim's signature and address on a check attempting to obtain goods.

Identity Theft: Occurred at unknown times between 12/2004 and 12/05/2005 in the 300 block of South Rexford Drive. Unknown suspect(s) used victim's identity to obtain a cellular phone.

Occurred at unknown times between 06/01/2004 and 12/05/05 in the 9400 block of Wilshire Blvd. Unknown suspect(s) used victim's personal information to obtain a credit card. Loss: \$4,074

Arrests

LEE, CHRISTOPHER PATRICK, 34, of North Hollywood, arrested on 12/13/05 for being under the influence of alcohol while riding a bicycle.

police blotter cont. on page 17

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health & fitness



Not On The Menu: Hepatitis

Last week's case of Hepatitis A at a popular downtown restaurant is not an isolated incident.

By Alan Spira, M.D., DTM&H

Last week, one of Los Angeles' premier downtown restaurants, Café Pinot, became the source of an unwelcome dining experience: food-borne hepatitis A.

Hepatitis A is a virus spread by eating or drinking fecally-contaminated food and water. The virus enters the body through the intestinal tract and then attacks the liver after a two- to six-week incubation period. Signs and symptoms of infection include pain in the upper-right belly, fever, chills, aches, abdominal cramps, fatigue, loss of appetite, and yellowing of the eyes or skin, known as jaundice. The disease can persist for many weeks, and profound fatigue lasting months are not unheard of. There is no specific cure or therapy for this infection. When exposed to hepatitis A for the first time the worse the

illness is. For people over the age of 40, there is an approximate 2 percent fatality rate. However, once the illness passes, you develop a life-long immunity to hepatitis A virus and will not get the disease again.

There are several ways to prevent hepatitis A, but the most fundamental of all is good hygiene. Washing hands before meals and after visiting the bathroom is both a simple and effective method for reducing illness in general. Restaurant employees, in particular, should have regular screening for enterically-transmitted diseases and receive vaccines and treatment for germs which can make them or customers ill. Immunization with hepatitis A vaccine is highly protective and a two-dose series will protect you for decades. Gamma Globulin, or Immune Serum

Globulin, is an alternative method but has some issues that make it less desirable than the vaccine: this product is pooled antibody which comes from other people's blood (which alone makes most people hesitant about receiving this), it only protects for a few months and the shot in the buttocks is not pleasant. The vaccine, on the other hand, is safer, more effective and lasts far longer. There are published scientific articles showing that getting the vaccine

even after an outbreak begins can still protect people in many cases against disease from the virus.

There are over 7,500 cases of hepatitis A annually throughout the United States. There have been over 60 cases of hepatitis A cases in Los Angeles County over the past four months, an increase in the standard number of cases. Hepatitis A vaccination has become a routine immunization given to children in the county and disease rates have been declining for the past six years. There have been significant outbreaks in the recent past throughout the world affecting large numbers of people, including one in China from shellfish which infected hundreds of thousands. If you are traveling abroad, especially to the developing world, it would be very wise to get vaccinated against hepatitis A, and other illnesses specific to your destination.

Alan Spira, M.D., DTM&H (BHHS '80) is the Medical Director at The Travel Medicine Center in Beverly Hills.

police blotter cont. from page 16

NIEVES, OLGA, 26, of Los Angeles, arrested on 12/13/05 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

REZAEI, MARAL NATALIA, 23, of Studio City, arrested on 12/13/05 for a misdemeanor warrant.

YOUNG, MICHAEL DEAN, 24, of Glendale, arrested on 12/12/05 for a felony warrant.

REYES, JONATHAN ROBERT, 34, of West Hollywood, arrested on 12/12/05 for driving with a suspended license.

YI, CINDY CHAE, 45, of Los Angeles, arrested on 12/12/05 for a felony warrant.

VILLAROMAN, JASON ANTHONY, 26, of Hawthorne, arrested on 12/12/05 for a misdemeanor warrant.

MITSHNIK, DAVID, 45, of Van Nuys, arrested on 12/12/05 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

YASKOWEAK, MARK AARON, 27, of Santa Monica, arrested on 12/12/05 for obstructing/resisting a peace officer.

LABERGE, JONATHAN J., 25, of Marina Del Rey, arrested on 12/11/05 for possession of a controlled substance.

police blotter cont. on page 24

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12/15, 12/22, 12/29/05
CNS-901413#

briefs cont. from page 11

whom spoke at Tuesday's meeting, in its campaign against a proposed 8,000 square foot home to be built at 300 and 304 South Wetherly, a two-lot proposal that is currently not supported by city staff or the Design Review Commission.

Willdan Firm Chosen For Rec Center EIR

City Council approved an agreement at Tuesday's meeting between the city and Willdan for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the former Industrial area east of Foothill Drive, between Alden Drive and Third Street. The contract was approved for \$250,000.

The EIR will assess the potential environmental impacts, including traffic, of a Community Recreation Center.

The Willdan firm was chosen out of four candidates because of its past work with the city, including the EIR for the Crescent Project, a five-story mixed-use development on the corner of Crescent Drive and Wilshire Boulevard.

Sustainability Summit Planned For Next Year

Staff from Public Works & Transportation, Community Development, Administrative Services, Policy & Management and Community Services are developing an integrated approach to Environmental

Sustainability practices in the city with the organization of a policy summit with community leaders.

Staff has organized an inter-departmental task force entitled, Environmental Sustainability, to continue the discussion and is initiating an inaugural Sustainability Summit April 27, 2006 at Franklin Canyon Auditorium. The topic will be "landscaping" to discuss such techniques as retaining stormwater and minimize pollution to the ocean, shade homes and keep structures cooler to conserve energy, decrease potable water usage by using less or implementing gray water systems, and use native plants that encourage the birds and butterflies to rehabilitate.

The proposed invite list includes council members, commissioners, Team Beverly Hills class and alumni, General Plan Topic Committee members, BHUSD officials, Westside cities, Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce and homeowners associations.

-- *Compiled by Andrea Simpson and Michelle Zenarosa*

cover cont. from page 14

"[Our congregants are] very generous. We have to help one another. If we don't help one another, who will?" Rabbi Yosef Shusterman of Chabad of Northern Beverly Hills said.

Temple Emanuel on Burton Way also has several projects planned to help those in need during the Hanukkah celebrations. The religious school is continuing a year-long program that provides food for the hungry and has developed a partnership with the Westside Food Bank, and has particularly asked its members to donate baby food.

At their Mitzvah Day of volunteering in November, Temple Emanuel donated

approximately 500 pounds of food for Thanksgiving and plans to do as well for Christmas and Hanukkah.

"I don't necessarily look at it in sense of just Hanukkah-- I look at it in a sense of everyone," said Geoff Prass, religious school principal at Temple Emanuel. "With the holidays and the stress of the holidays on [a needy] family, it can take a little bit of the stress off to have something. When you break it down for some of these food banks, a couple dollars can actually feed an entire family of four for an entire day."

to the *Weekly*. "The Red Line extension, whether along Wilshire or Santa Monica Boulevard is vitally important to our community to relieve the gridlock that continues to grow in this swelling transportation corridor."

Although the COG can make no formal actions, the organization can make recommendations as a whole to individual city, state and federal governments. Overall, the all the cities in the COG have been very cooperative with each other with very little disagreement on issues, according to Heilman.

"Any time there's a disagreement, it's usually over a few words and usually able to resolve that," Heilman said. "We're lucky that the cities tend to share similar values and commitment."

police blotter cont. from page 17

MALE JUVENILE, 16, of Saugus, arrested on 12/11/05 for possession of less than one ounce of marijuana while driving.

MAYER, KYLE L., 26, of Simi Valley, arrested on 12/11/05 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

SCHRAMM, CHRISTIAN FREIDRICH, 25, of Laguna Niguel, arrested on 12/11/05 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

SANDOVAL, VLADIMIR IBARRA, 25, of Tarzana, arrested on 12/11/05 for driving without a license.

ALVAREZ, ADRIAN MICHAEL, 18, of North Hills, arrested on 12/11/05 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

AMANTES, MARCO ANTONIO, 21, of Los Angeles, arrested on 12/11/05 for driving without a license.

KHOJAYEV, TIMUR, 25, of San Pedro, arrested on 12/11/05 for a felony driving under the influence of alcohol.

CHATERIZEH, PARVANEH, 50, of Los Angeles, arrested on 12/11/05 for driving with a suspended license.

COPLAN, JULIANNE, 41, of Playa Del Rey, arrested on 12/11/05 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

THOMPSON, MATTHEW NICHOLAS, 22, of Sherman Oaks, arrested on 12/11/05 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

CUSICK, ALAN STEPHEN, 35, of Los Angeles, arrested on 12/11/05 for driving without a license.

BAUTISTA, JOEL RUIZ, 25, of Los Angeles, arrested on 12/11/05 for public intoxication.

MORALES, CARLOS SEVILLA, 23, of Moorpark, arrested on 12/10/05 for driving without a license.

VAUGHN, JORDAN MYRRH, 21, of Victorville, arrested on 12/10/05 for driving with a suspended license.

MORSE, LESLIE IDA, 44, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 12/10/05 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

MELIA, KEVIN, 57, of Santa Monica, arrested on 12/10/05 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

WOLPERT, MATTHEW JAMES, 29, of Los Angeles, arrested on 12/10/05 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

WILSON, THOMAS KION, 30, of Long Beach, arrested on 12/10/05 for possession of a controlled substance.

SQUIRE, RICHARD MARK, 29, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 12/10/05 for obstructing/resisting a peace officer.

MARSHAL, DARYL TREMAYNE, 28, of

Bellflower, arrested on 12/10/05 for possession of a controlled substance.

MALEKI, NIMA CHRIS, 27, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 12/10/05 for a misdemeanor warrant.

EL-GHOUL, MARINA ISSA, 23, of Los Angeles, arrested on 12/10/05 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

FERREIRA, OBEDE ELIAS, 44, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 12/09/05 for battery.

DELGADO, RUBEN BARBOZA, 23, of West Los Angeles, arrested on 12/09/05 for driving without a license.

RODRIGUEZ, ALBERTO, 18, of Los Angeles, arrested on 12/09/05 for driving without a license.

KASUMYAN, ANGELA, 51, of Glendale, arrested on 12/09/05 for burglary.

MALE JUVENILE, 13, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 12/09/05 for criminal threats.

MANZO, JIM JR., 39, of Valencia, arrested on 12/08/05 for driving with a suspended license.

FOWLER, RICKY LEE, 39, of Los Angeles, arrested on 12/08/05 for a misdemeanor warrant.

HARRIS, FOREST TERRELL, 37, of Los Angeles, arrested on 12/08/05 for driving with a suspended license.

LAWTON, THERESA BARBARO, 36, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 12/08/05 for driving with a suspended license.

DEES, FREDERICK GERRARD, 30, of Los Angeles, arrested on 12/08/05 for burglary.

HAYES, SUNNY ELLEN, 20, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 12/08/05 for burglary.

ONEAL, QUINCY SCOTT, 28, of Pasadena, arrested on 12/07/05 for leaving personal property on sidewalk.

PEREZ, IVAN ABEL, 21, of Los Angeles, arrested on 12/07/05 for driving without a license.

WILLIAMS, RORY LAMOND, 27, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 12/07/05 for inflicting injury on a child.

REED, KERRI AMBER, 24, of Los Angeles, arrested on 12/07/05 for a misdemeanor warrant.

PEREZ, BRIAN ERNESTO, 24, of Los Angeles, arrested on 12/07/05 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

MALE JUVENILE, 14, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 12/07/05 for vandalism.

MORALES, DANIEL, 23, of Bell, arrested on 12/06/05 for driving with a suspended license.

MALE JUVENILE, 15, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 12/06/05 for vandalism.

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could function in real time and the very sophisticated system can actually provide information about a crime in action," Brucker said.

This type of program would not be unique to Beverly Hills. It has already been in use abroad for years, and more recently in New York, Chicago, Hollywood along the Hollywood Walk of Fame, as well as crime ridden parts of Los Angeles, like MacArthur Park.

In Monte Carlo, where the camera program has been well received by its population., according to Alexander, its representatives told him that during a bank robbery police were able to see the robbers first hand without being at the scene of the crime and were able to strategize according to how many robbers were involved and how many police officers should be dispatched. And all of this was done from the police station, compared to hearing a bank alarm, having no idea how many robbers are involved, where they're going or if they are carrying weapons.

"First of all, it's a deterrent to crime because if criminals know that the cities have the cameras and they're likely to be televised relating to a crime or be caught, obviously they'll go to another city to commit a crime," Alexander said. "Secondly, it helps identify who is guilty after the fact and it helps identify who's innocent."

While in England, at a station in Guilford, just outside London, Alexander watched a tape of a crime involving three young men who attacked another person. The third person said he wasn't involved in the crime and the tape proved he was telling the truth.

"Any other such circumstances they probably wouldn't have believed him because he was with the other two," Alexander said.

Alexander added that according to the police it also helps in securing a confession from a suspect who claims he's innocent.

"When someone is accused of a crime and they're shown a tape, they many times just admit they're the criminal," Alexander said. "So the police would otherwise have to go to court waiting and testifying, but in some cases as soon as the suspect saw the tape they'd say they were guilty. It's just conclusive evidence of the crime."

Alexander says his idea only involves the commercial sector of the city at this time.

Brucker said, if implemented, no one should worry about "Big Brother" invading their privacy.

"Those are some of the concerns involving privacy, however, those people who are concerned may not know that by walking into a bank, casino, airport and most public buildings and some private buildings they're being photographed," Brucker said. "My opinion is that if you're a bad guy, you don't want to be in Beverly Hills. The whole idea is this is going to be very tightly controlled. We're going to be focusing on the bad guy and nothing more personal than that."

In almost 10 years, technology has come a long way from using tapes, which along with the cost of installing fiber optic cable, was expensive and time consuming at the time. Now 2005 poses some distinct advantages than in 1996, with storage, cost and manpower minimal. According to Alexander, the city could install CCTV for far less money within the business district.

For a package of 16 cameras including one "hub" that transmits the information to the "head end" and monitors located at the police station, it would cost between \$300,000 and \$400,000, according to Hamilton Pacific, a company that has installed four systems for the LAPD.

"The advantage in Beverly Hills is that you can design a system that encompasses the entire business

district for approximately \$500,000," Alexander said. "You can't do that in the City of Los Angeles, Chicago, New York or Philadelphia."

Brucker said the police department feels very encouraged that this has become a priority.

"If any city can do it, Beverly Hills is a champion. We should be able to find the budget dollars for it. I can't imagine a resident or merchant who wouldn't want this type of protection," Brucker said.

Alexander added that Chicago, another city he also visited, has a bank of screens which do not have to be manned 24-7. The system has become sophisticated enough that if something unusual happens, it can be programmed to flash, amongst other features. Alexander is also quick to point out that Chicago's multi-million dollar, 2,000 camera system was funded partly through a Homeland Security grant.

"Then 9/11 happened in 2001, and it was pretty obvious that if we needed COP in 1996, which it was quite clear to me we did, we definitely need it now," Alexander said.

Alexander believes that if the city had cameras on Wilshire when last week's stabbing took place the police could have read the license plate tags using the system and searched the database to find the culprit.

"My point is that it's time for all of us in the community to get behind this," Alexander added. "I've encouraged the Chamber to get behind it and its Board of Directors has and is now supporting it, the council has indicated their support for it, as well as the police department. So the question is, how do we get it implemented and fast?"

Details for the program including funding and location are still under discussion and a pilot project is set up for the near future.

Captain Frank Salcido said the department has a specific vision for the project, and would like to combine it with the ALPR. However, it is still preliminary.

"We have a vision and if you think about how the application exists, our vision is something that would be a tremendous asset to the city. However, you have to look at the application as it is in England and weigh the crime in Beverly Hills and the effectiveness of CCTV may be different," Salcido said. "For instance, the LAPD has been specific toward crime ridden areas, so they were able to solve those crimes at a high rate. We don't have areas such as MacArthur Park where CCTV will eliminate crime from those areas."

Salcido added that the city and council must take a balanced approach to the project.

"We must evaluate how we want to utilize it and keep it balanced with the cost of it," Salcido said. "Right now we're in the development stages."

According to Brucker, a future goal would be to tie the CCTV with merchants' camera systems and put the cameras on the city's major borders and corridors to make Beverly Hills the "safest small city in America."

"If the technology was tied together between the private sector and cities in the event there was an incident in a merchant's store, and if a perpetrator exits the city, the police could then take over in tracking the bad guy. That coordination would be very valuable to ease in the apprehension of criminals," Brucker said.

Alexander added that he thinks there's an immediate need in the city for the program.

"I think it should be a priority," Alexander said. "The first priority of the city is the protection of its residents and the people who work and shop here."

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